

**THE EARLIEST COSMOLOGIES: THE UNIVERSE  
AS PICTURED IN THOUGHT BY THE ANCIENT  
HEBREWS, BABYLONIANS, EGYPTIANS,  
GREEKS, IRANIANS, AND INDO-ARYANS : A  
GUIDEBOOK FOR BEGINNERS IN THE STUDY  
OF ANCIENT LITERATURES AND RELIGIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649001170

The earliest cosmologies: the universe as pictured in thought by the ancient Hebrews, Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Iranians, and Indo-Aryans : a guidebook for beginners in the study of ancient literatures and religions by William Fairfield Warren

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM FAIRFIELD WARREN**

**THE EARLIEST COSMOLOGIES: THE UNIVERSE  
AS PICTURED IN THOUGHT BY THE ANCIENT  
HEBREWS, BABYLONIANS, EGYPTIANS,  
GREEKS, IRANIANS, AND INDO-ARYANS : A  
GUIDEBOOK FOR BEGINNERS IN THE STUDY  
OF ANCIENT LITERATURES AND RELIGIONS**



# The Earliest Cosmologies

THE UNIVERSE AS PICTURED IN THOUGHT BY  
THE ANCIENT HEBREWS, BABYLONIANS,  
EGYPTIANS, GREEKS, IRANIANS,  
AND INDO-ARYANS

A GUIDEBOOK FOR BEGINNERS IN THE STUDY  
OF ANCIENT LITERATURES AND RELIGIONS

BY

WILLIAM FAIRFIELD WARREN, S.T.D., LL.D.

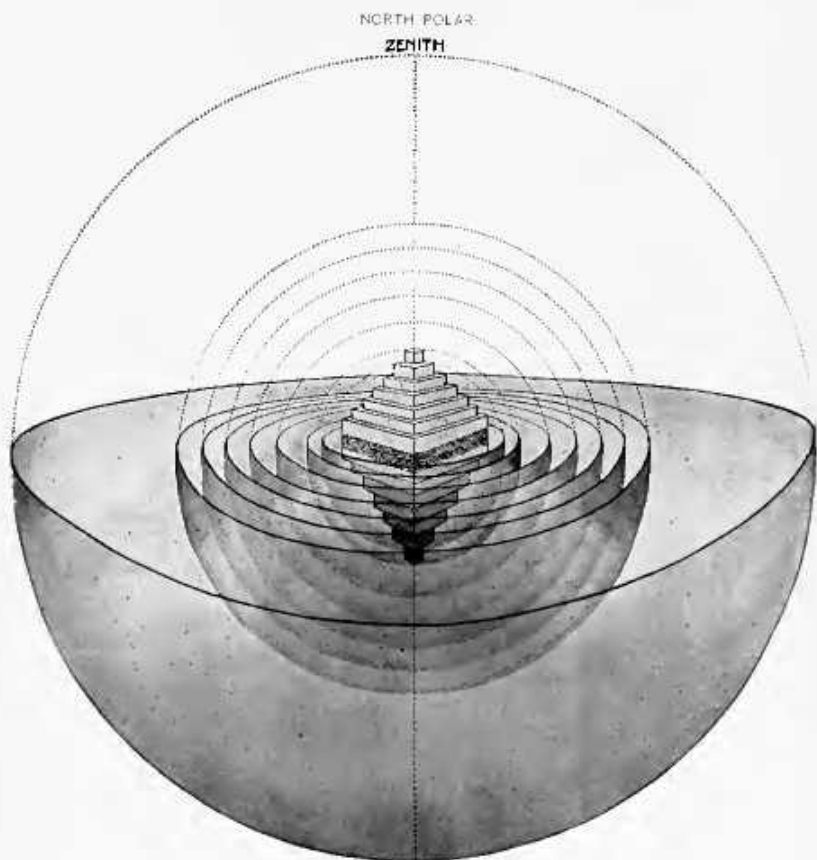
Member of the Royal Asiatic Society; Corporate Member of the American  
Oriental Society; President of Boston University 1875-1903; Author of  
"The True Key to Ancient Cosmology and Mythical Geography,"  
"The Cradle of the Human Race," etc., etc., etc.



New York: EATON & MAINS  
Cincinnati: JENNINGS & GRAHAM

16905

3.2

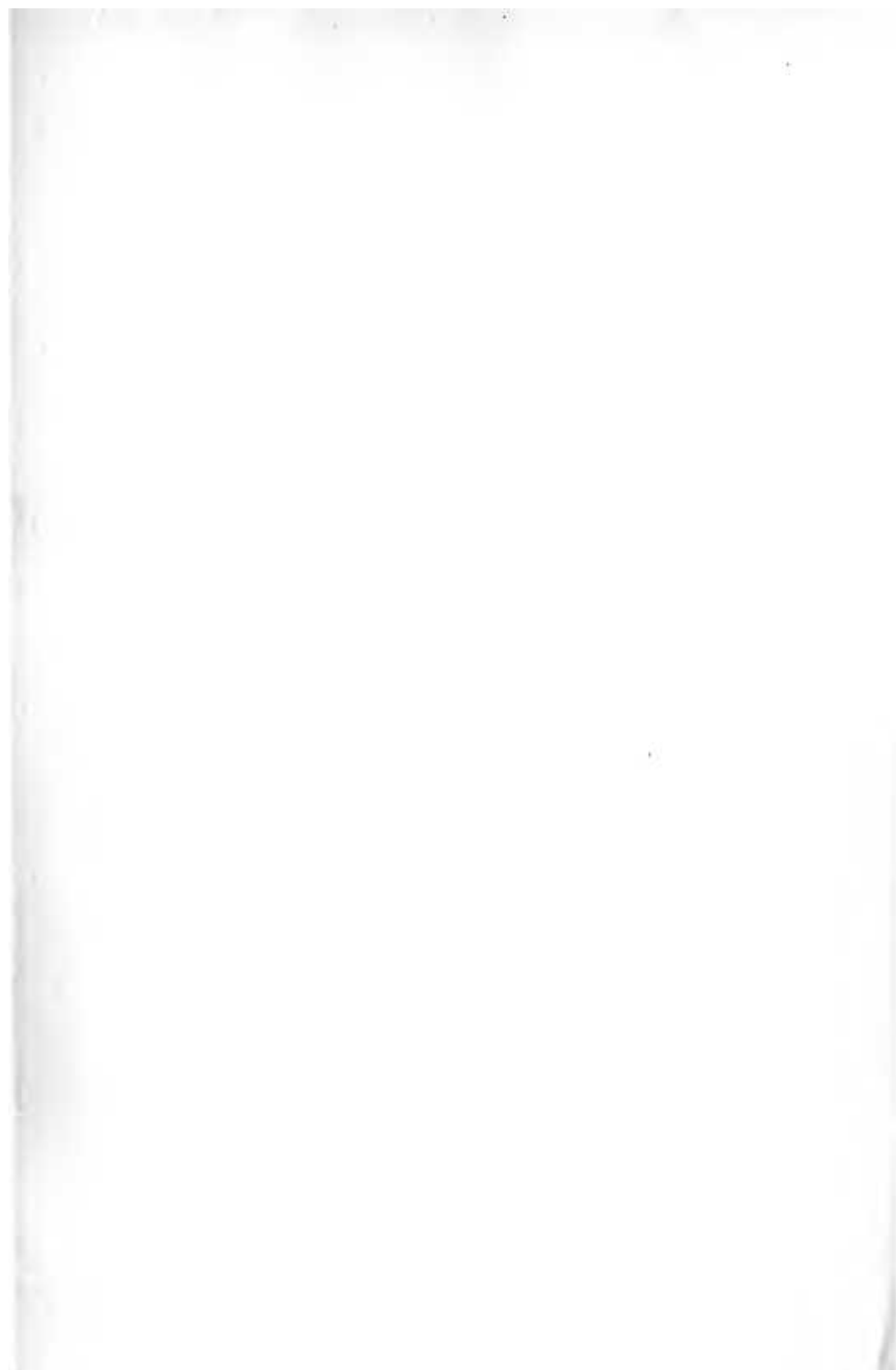


#### THE BABYLONIAN UNIVERSE

Illustrating pages 33-40

The upright central line is the polar axis of the heavens and earth. The two seven-staged pyramids represent the earth, the upper being the abode of living men, the under one the abode of the dead. The separating waters are the four seas. The seven inner homocentric globes are respectively the domains and special abodes of Sin, Shamash, Nabu, Ishtar, Nergal, Marduk, and Ninib, each being a "world-ruler" in his own planetary sphere. The outermost of the spheres, that of Anu and Ea, is the heaven of the fixed stars. The axis from center to zenith marks "the Way of Anu"; the axis from center to nadir "the Way of Ea." See *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, vol. xxii, pp. 138-144; xxiii, opposite p. 388; and xxvi, pp. 84-92.

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED  
WITH FRIENDLY PERMISSION  
TO  
C. H. W. JOHNS, M.A., Litt.D.  
QUEENS' COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
ENGLAND





## CONTENTS

	PAGE
Dedication.....	3
Illustrations.....	9
Preface.....	11

### CHAPTER I

#### THE HEBREW UNIVERSE AS COMMONLY PICTURED

A typical representation.....	19
Inconsistency in interpretation.....	21
Lack of thoroughness.....	21
Antecedent probabilities.....	22
A profession of faith.....	24
The declaration of an astronomer.....	25

### CHAPTER II

#### THE HEBREW UNIVERSE AS PICTURED BY SCHIAPARELLI

An improved reconstruction of the system.....	26
International interest therein.....	26
Diagram less inclusive than its title.....	27
A double firmament and the reasons therefor.....	29
Embarrassing questions.....	30
God's will effective below but not above the earth.....	32

### CHAPTER III

#### THE BABYLONIAN UNIVERSE NEWLY INTERPRETED

Seven diagrams representing the Babylonian universe.....	33
No two of the seven alike.....	33
A new interpretation needed.....	34
The twelve conditions to be met.....	34
A diagram that satisfies each of the twelve requirements.....	38
Origin of this remarkable world-concept.....	40

### CHAPTER IV

#### THE BIBLICAL, RABBINICAL, AND KORANIC UNIVERSE IN THE LIGHT OF THE BABYLONIAN

Was the Biblical universe essentially Babylonian?.....	41
An argument against the supposition.....	41

	PAGE
Considerations favoring the supposition.....	45
The Rabbinical world-view.....	49
The Koranic.....	52
Mohammed's six ascents into the seventh heaven.....	53

## CHAPTER V

## THE EGYPTIAN UNIVERSE

A pioneer's first representation.....	58
A contemporary criticism.....	60
Picture embodying some later modifications.....	62
Difficulties remain.....	64
Traces of agreement with the Babylonian system.....	66
Steindorff discovers but fails to correlate the Counter-earth....	68

## CHAPTER VI

## THE HOMERIC UNIVERSE

A claim that the Homeric earth is a sphere.....	70
Other parts of his universe more or less Babylonian.....	73
Where further evidence may be found.....	73
The irremovable "thresholds" above and below the earth.....	75
Testimony of Herodotus to Babylonian influence.....	76
An ampler present-day claim.....	77

## CHAPTER VII

## THE INDO-IRANIAN UNIVERSE

The world-concept of the Sūrya Siddhānta.....	79
Sevenfold division of the Northern hemisphere.....	81
Sevenfold division of the Southern hemisphere.....	83
Substantial identity of Indian and Iranian world-concepts.....	85
The seven "island continents".....	86
A puzzling passage made plain.....	93

## CHAPTER VIII

## THE BUDDHISTIC UNIVERSE

Four chief deviations from the parent system.....	95
Nine points of agreement with it.....	95
Both agreements and deviations should be further investigated.	99
Two pictures of the Buddhistic universe.....	100
One with quadrangular Dvīpas, the other with circular.....	100
More detailed description of this world-view in the Appendix..	100

## CONTENTS

7

### CHAPTER IX

#### RECOVERED TRACE OF TWO LOST SPHERES

	PAGE
Two lunar and two solar spheres.....	101
Discriminations hitherto neglected.....	102
Difficulty of the task.....	103
It should nevertheless be undertaken.....	103
A long-standing problem in Egyptian cosmology.....	104
Its solution.....	107

### CHAPTER X

#### POINTS AND PROBLEMS FOR FUTURE STUDY

The prehistoric world-concept.....	109
Myths as beginnings of a philosophy of nature.....	110
Why hard to understand.....	112
Their seeming lack of harmony often unreal.....	112
Mythical representations of the world's axis.....	113
Also of the cosmic water-system.....	115
And of inter-mundane highways.....	116
The lunar sphere as bridge from underworld to upper.....	118
The Zodiac, when invented, and where.....	119
The answer to these questions becoming clearer.....	126

### APPENDIX

I. The Mandala Oblation.....	133
II. Homer's Abode of the Dead.....	157
III. Homer's Abode of the Living.....	178
IV. The Gates of Sunrise in the Oldest Mythologies.....	192
V. The Homeland of the Gandharvas.....	197
VI. The World-Tree of the Teutons.....	200
VII. Problems Still Unsolved in Indo-Aryan Cosmology.....	205
VIII. Index of Authors.....	217
IX. Index of Subjects.....	221